METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING A MESSAGING INTERFACE

BACKGROUND

[0001] Service providers and device manufacturers (e.g., wireless, cellular, etc.) are continually challenged to deliver value and convenience to consumers by, for example, providing compelling network services. One area of interest has been the development of messaging related services (e.g., chat services, instant messaging services, etc.) which enjoy great popularity among users. This popularity has led to a proliferation of such services from a variety of service providers (e.g., Nokia®, Yahoo!®, Google®, AOL®, etc.). Moreover, it is noted that users often have multiple accounts across multiple service providers that can be used for different purposes (e.g., work, home, etc.) and with different groups (e.g., family, friends, etc.). Accordingly, service providers and device manufacturers face significant technical challenges to enabling users to efficiently and quickly navigate among multiple conversation threads, messages, etc. active within the multiple messaging services and accounts on a common device. The technical challenges are particularly difficult when the user's device has limited input/output capabilities (e.g., a touch-enabled mobile device) and/or when the services are to remain separate and distinct.

SOME EXAMPLE EMBODIMENTS

[0002] Therefore, there is a need for an approach for interacting with a messaging user interface.

[0003] According to one embodiment, a method comprises causing, at least in part, presentation of a messaging user interface associated with one or more messaging services at a device. The method also comprises causing, at least in part, presentation of a user interface element providing a link to one or more communications sessions corresponding to the messaging services. Selection of the user interface element causes, at least in part, presentation of representations of the communications sessions as one or more overlay elements on the user interface.

[0004] According to another embodiment, an apparatus comprising at least one processor, and at least one memory including computer program code, the at least one memory and the computer program code configured to, with the at least one processor, cause, at least in part, the apparatus to cause, presentation of a messaging user interface associated with one or more messaging services at a device. The apparatus is also caused to present a user interface element providing a link to one or more communications sessions corresponding to the messaging services. Selection of the user interface element causes, at least in part, presentation of representations of the communications sessions as one or more overlay elements on the user interface.

[0005] According to another embodiment, a computer-readable storage medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause, at least in part, an apparatus to cause, presentation of a messaging user interface associated with one or more messaging services at a device. The apparatus is also caused to present a user interface element providing a link to one or more communications sessions corresponding to the messaging services. Selection of the user interface element causes, at least in part, presentation of representations of the communications sessions as one or more overlay elements on the user interface.

[0006] According to another embodiment, an apparatus comprises means for causing, at least in part, presentation of a messaging user interface associated with one or more messaging services at a device. The apparatus also comprises means for causing, at least in part, presentation of a user interface element providing a link to one or more communications sessions corresponding to the messaging services. Selection of the user interface element causes, at least in part, presentation of representations of the communications sessions as one or more overlay elements on the user interface.

[0007] Still other aspects, features, and advantages of the invention are readily apparent from the following detailed description, simply by illustrating a number of particular embodiments and implementations, including the best mode contemplated for carrying out the invention. The invention is also capable of other and different embodiments, and its several details can be modified in various obvious respects, all without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. Accordingly, the drawings and description are to be regarded as illustrative in nature, and not as restrictive.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0008] The embodiments of the invention are illustrated by way of example, and not by way of limitation, in the figures of the accompanying drawings:

[0009] FIG. **1** is a diagram of a system capable of presenting a touch enabled messaging user interface, according to one embodiment;

[0010] FIG. **2** is a diagram of the components of user equipment, according to one embodiment;

[0011] FIG. **3** is a flowchart of a process for presenting a touch enabled messaging user interface, according to one embodiment;

[0012] FIG. **4** is a flowchart of a process for interacting with a touch enabled messaging user interface, according to one embodiment;

[0013] FIG. **5** is a diagram of a touch enabled user interface associated with a messaging application, according to various embodiments;

[0014] FIGS. **6**A-**6**C, **7**A-**7**B, **8**A-**8**C, and **9** are diagrams of user interfaces utilized in the processes of FIGS. **3** and **4**, according to various embodiments;

[0015] FIG. **10** is a diagram of hardware that can be used to implement an embodiment of the invention;

[0016] FIG. **11** is a diagram of a chip set that can be used to implement an embodiment of the invention; and

[0017] FIG. **12** is a diagram of a mobile terminal (e.g., handset) that can be used to implement an embodiment of the invention.

DESCRIPTION OF SOME EMBODIMENTS

[0018] Examples of a method, apparatus, and computer program for providing a messaging interface are disclosed. In the following description, for the purposes of explanation, numerous specific details are set forth in order to provide a thorough understanding of the embodiments of the invention. It is apparent, however, to one skilled in the art that the embodiments of the invention may be practiced without these specific details or with an equivalent arrangement. In other instances, well-known structures and devices are shown in